

75th Anniversary

PARADE



WOODBRIDGE
Fire Company No. 1

1897



1972

Sunday, October 15, 1972

Woodbridge, New Jersey



. . . Congratulations and Best Wishes . . .

to the

OFFICERS and MEN of

WOODBIDGE FIRE COMPANY No. 1

on your

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Commissioners of Fire District No. 1

President TODD HOWELL

Vice President & Treasurer FRANK BOKA

Secretary JIM PATTEN

Commissioner ROBERT A. FITZPATRICK

Commissioner JOSEPH ALLGAIER

Clerk Warren P. Harned

Attorney Frederick M. Adams





Welcome to Woodbridge

It is indeed our pleasure to welcome one and all to Woodbridge, New Jersey, on this the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1.

We have gone to great effort to make your visit an enjoyable one, as well as a pleasant one, and we sincerely hope that your stay with us — short as it may be — will truly be one that you will always remember.

The officers and men of Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1 are indeed proud and honored to have our friends and fellow firemen with us to help us celebrate 75 years of service to the community on this, the Fifteenth of October, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Two.

Faternally yours,

WOODBIDGE FIRE COMPANY No. 1

Woodbridge, New Jersey



.....
... Congratulations on Your ...

7 5 t h A N N I V E R S A R Y

WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

WOODBRIIDGE — District No. 1

PORT READING — District No. 2

KEASBEY — District No. 4

AVENEL — District No. 5

FORDS — District No. 7

HOPELAWN — District No. 8

ISELIN No. 9 — District No. 9

ISELIN No. 11 — District No. 11

COLONIA — District No. 12

President — **Walt Sobieski**

Vice President — **Lenny Minkler**

Secretary-Treasurer — **Steve Orosz**

|||||
75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

— Honorary —

JOHN J. CASSIDY
MAYOR — Woodbridge Township

— General Chairman —

ANDREW ANDERSON

— Parade Marshals —

DAN NATALE, Chief

JOHN TOTH
1st Asst. Chief

THOMAS BADER
2nd Asst. Chief

— Invitations —

FRANK MEYER

PETER SMITH

— Parade Staging —

JOHN ORLICK

ANTON ANDERSCH

— Decorations —

GEORGE VAN TASSEL

JAMES ZEHRER

— Trophies —

LEONARD MINKLER

THOMAS CROWE

— Souvenir Program —

THOMAS CROWE
MICHAEL SEFCHEK

LEONARD MINKLER
THOMAS HINES

— Refreshments —

JOHN KENNY

JOSEPH MITKO

— Judging —

LEONARD MINKLER

THOMAS CROWE

— Souvenir Mugs —

JOHN HACKER

— Public Relations —

LEONARD MINKLER

— Treasurer —

EDWARD CROWE



. . . Best Wishes for . . .

A Happy
75th Anniversary

From the

OFFICERS and Men

of the

I S E L I N

Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

ISELIN, NEW JERSEY





The Township of Woodbridge New Jersey

Woodbridge Township is the oldest Township in the State of New Jersey, rich in history, and steeped in tradition.

Woodbridge was settled in 1664, but was not granted a Charter until 1669, by King Charles. The original boundaries, set by this Charter of Woodbridge Township, included what we now know today as the communities of Rahway, Carteret, Metuchen, and parts of Edison Township.

Historians believe that our name was derived from the town of Woodbridge, in Suffolk County, England, where many of the emigrants who settled in our community came from originally.

New Jersey's first newspaper was printed in Woodbridge in 1765 by James Parker, and during the Revolutionary War, Woodbridge, by being on the main highway between New York and Philadelphia, was the center of much activity during this era of American history.

In the nineteenth century, clay mining and brick manufacturing were the main industries of the township. In fact the seal of the Township of Woodbridge shows a kiln used to fire the brick, crossed shovel and pick, the main tools used in those days to mine clay, and a ship's wheel, a symbol of the barges used to transport the clay to New York.

Woodbridge, for many years, enjoyed the enviable reputation as an outstanding summer resort for the New York-New Jersey area, with steamers and trains bringing hundreds of vacationers to our community.

But time has changed the face and character of Woodbridge. With the great change in the means of travel, transportation, and modern highways, Woodbridge has in a very short time grown from a sleepy, small-town community to the modern seventh largest community in the State of New Jersey, with more than one hundred thousand residents.

. . . Continued on page 29





CONGRATULATIONS

TO

W O O D B R I D G E

FIRE COMPANY No. 1

**Avenel
Fire Company
No. 1**





— A Decade Ago —



— Today's Fire Equipment —



— Our newest piece of equipment —

[illegible]

FOLEHN CHEMICALS, INCORPORATED & LADDER FIRE COMPANY

and then

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

1897 — 1972

By Longin W. Marzecki, Historian

In the last quarter of the 1800's, Woodbridge, New Jersey, was a thriving little town with a busy business section, clay mining operations, several docks on the streams leading to the sea and yet, despite these commercial attributes, it was still considered a small farming community.

It had no fire department, no central water supply and no paved roads. However, there was a good neighbor spirit amongst the townspeople and surrounding communities.

In those days, not much could be done to save a house on fire. The primary consideration was the safety of its occupants. Then attempts were made to salvage whatever belongings were near at hand.

In 1887, a fire suddenly engulfed several stores on Main Street between School and Pearl Streets. The bell in the tower of the Methodist Church, across the street from the fire, was rung frantically, warning Woodbridge citizens of the fire, and every able-bodied man rushed to help.

A local hardware store was raided of every pail, and an impromptu bucket brigade stretched from nearby wells to the holocaust. A feed store, grocery store and a barber shop were reduced to ashes. The heroic efforts by the fire fighters were to no avail. Nine years later, the next great fire reduced a busy brick and tile plant to its foundations. Thus it was, in 1897, after much discussion, the leading young men decided to form a fire company. On October 28, a meeting was held in a local hall during which prospective firemen were recruited and officers elected.

Orderly financing was arranged, but there had been some doubt about the legality of the first election. This was resolved, and an initial appropriation of \$500 was voted. The expenses were modest enough. The land for the fire house cost only \$350, of which \$50 was donated by the seller, and a local brewing company was the greatest financial benefactor, with a gift of one hundred dollars.

. . . Continued on page 11

=====

- - - Best Wishes from - - -

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613 RAHWAY AVENUE

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CHARLES and DENNIS

739 RAHWAY AVENUE

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

Continued from page 9 . . .

With the present before them, and the future in mind, the new fire company voted to purchase a hose reel, 400 feet of hose and 12 buckets. Some citizens asked, "Why the reel and hose, when there are no water hydrants or pumps?" However, the organization for fighting fires was set up and ready to go. The men made practice runs, and held fire drills with the hose reel. Later on, an enterprising fireman suggested a better means of locomotion for faster arrivals. A local merchant volunteered the use of his horse and wagon in case of a fire.

When the alarm sounded, he immediately drove to the place where the hose reel was kept, and on his arrival he was joined by several volunteers. They would grab the reel, and sitting on the tailboard of the wagon, they rode away to the scene holding onto the fire equipment. Needless to say, there were a number of humorous incidents, one of which was when the hose reel slipped from the grasp of those on the tailboard and rolled back down Main Street. Firemen and citizens all attempted to retrieve the runaway hose reel, while the merchant turned his horse and wagon around to join in the pursuit. This practice was ended in 1905, when the volunteers obtained a horse and a fire supply wagon.

This original hose reel now stands in honored glory and remembrance on the side of the apron of the present fire house on School Street.

In 1898, a "modern" hook and ladder wagon, drawn either by hand or horse, was added. This was rather thin and fragile when compared with today's fire equipment. However, it was the ultimate in its day. It had several ladders, buckets slung underneath and a single tongue for a pair of horses. The townspeople purposely passed the carriage shed of a local plumber where they gazed at the bright red wagon with pride and approval.

The "hook and ladder" had been designed by Seagrave of Trenton, N. J., and it was first leased, and then purchased by the fire company. It remained in service until 1924.

In 1901 a fire house was built on the site of the present one on School Street, next to Heard's Brook. A steel locomotive wheel tire was hung in the tower as the alarm system. A far compari-

. . . Continued on page 23



PAST CHIEFS

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 1899 D. A. Brown
(1900-1901) | 33. 1938 W. Prion |
| 2. 1902 J. Thompson
(1903-1904) | 34. 1939 J. Zehrer |
| 3. 1905 F. A. Hughes (1906) | 35. 1940 E. Raison |
| 4. 1907 C. F. Turner (1908) | 36. 1941 J. Jardot |
| 5. 1909 R. A. Hirner | 37. 1942 W. Applegate |
| 6. 1910 H. Valentine | 38. 1943 R. Holzheimer |
| 7. 1911 R. Moore | 39. 1944 E. Olsen—R. Bader |
| 8. 1912 H. B. Mawbey
(1913) | 40. 1945 R. Bader |
| 9. 1914 B. Dunigan | 41. 1946 J. Pender |
| 10. 1915 O. Kath | 42. 1947 J. Prekop |
| 11. 1916 M. Prall | 43. 1948 T. Fitzpatrick |
| 12. 1917 E. W. Peterson | 44. 1949 O. Hunt |
| 13. 1918 J. Bergen | 45. 1950 A. Andersch |
| 14. 1919 H. C. Turner | 46. 1951 J. Prohaska |
| 15. 1920 W. A. Gilham | 47. 1952 S. Cheslak |
| 16. 1921 E. Sattler | 48. 1953 J. Ward |
| 17. 1922 P. J. Peterson | 49. 1954 M. Hunt |
| 18. 1923 P. Greiner | 50. 1955 W. Van Tassel |
| 19. 1924 L. Goriss | 51. 1956 J. Allgaier |
| 20. 1925 C. McCann | 52. 1957 W. Smith |
| 21. 1926 A. Markowsky | 53. 1958 J. Orlick |
| 22. 1927 F. Kath | 54. 1959 R. Golden |
| 23. 1928 L. Harned —
E. Melick | 55. 1960 J. Karnas |
| 24. 1929 W. Allgaier | 56. 1961 A. Hudak |
| 25. 1930 L. Zehrer | 57. 1962 A. Anderson |
| 26. 1931 F. Mawbey | 58. 1963 J. Hacker |
| 27. 1932 W. Messick | 59. 1964 W. Gerity |
| 28. 1933 J. Catano | 60. 1965 R. Foerch |
| 29. 1934 F. Zehrer | 61. 1966 M. Lebeda |
| 30. 1935 A. F. Hunt | 62. 1967 C. Fitzpatrick |
| 31. 1936 F. Kath | 63. 1968 J. Kenny |
| 32. 1937 J. Haborak | 64. 1969 E. Cheslak |
| | 65. 1970 H. B. Quigley, Jr. |
| | 66. 1971 L. J. Minkler |
| | 67. 1972 D. Natale |

|||||
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FORDS FIRE COMPANY No. 1

Fire Fighting Officers:

JEFF YUHASZ, Chief

JOHN SEYLER, President

DON FINAN, 1st Asst. Chief

JOHN WOLFF, Vice President

PETE DALINA, 2nd Asst. Chief

JOSEPH KAZMIR, Recording Secy.

JACK DEFFLER, Foreman

ROY MILLER, Financial Secy.

ED. RASMUSSEN, 1st Assistant

JOSEPH DAMBACH, Treasurer

DON PINTER, 2nd Assistant

RAY PASSALACQUA, Sgt.-at-Arms

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Sidney Weiner, Proprietor

79 MAIN STREET

WOODBIDGE, N. J.



— Warehouse Fire — January 13, 1967 —



— Motel Restaurant — July 23, 1964 —



— Nursing Home — November 26, 1969 —

[illegible]

— COMPANY —

Jim Rattigan

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Fire Chief's Trophy
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Shell Oil Company — Sewaren

Second Best Appearing Company, Regulation Uniform w/20 men
& music
A. P. Green Refractories

Best Appearing Company, Regulation Uniform w/20 men without
music
Abraham & Straus

Second Best Appearing Company, Regulation Uniform w/20 men
without music
Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Corp.

Best Appearing Fire Company Color Guard
Woodbridge B P O Elks No. 2116

Best Appearing Ladies' Auxiliary
Walter Merwin & Son, Inc.

Best Appearing Fire Emergency/First Aid Unit
Acetylene Supply Company

Best Comic Outfit
First National Stores, Inc.

Best Appearing Pumper under Five-years-old
Woodbridge Center, Inc.

Second Best Appearing Pumper under Five-years-old
Mauro Motors, Inc.

[illegible]

TROPHY :- COMANCHE :- VIKING

833 RAHWAY AVENUE

-:- REALTORS -:-

570 RAHWAY AVENUE

[illegible]

|||||



— Main Street — June 6, 1956 —



— Main Street — June 6, 1956 —



— Main Street — April 3, 1969 —

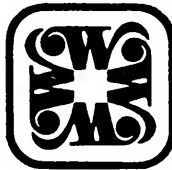


Woodbridge Center

WHERE ROUTE 1 MEETS ROUTE 9

125 Fine Stores including

ABRAHAM & STRAUS, OHRBACH'S, STERN'S



Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

Continued from page 11 . . .

son to today's highly audible air horn (which is mounted on the roof of the firehouse), which signals a fire, and the home alarm radio alerting system, whereby every fireman has a radio receiver, which is activated from the base radio at fire headquarters, which transmits the location of the fire call.

Behind this structure on a street facing the railroad yard was a stable that housed the fire horses. The original team of "Tom and Harry" worked together for years. When the alarm was sounded, they pawed and kicked until someone released them from their stalls. Straight as an arrow they ran through the willow woods to the fire house and assumed their places. They waited impatiently as the harnesses were attached, and every once in awhile turned their heads as if to say, "Stop stalling, we've got to get going!"

As firemen even today have certain duties to perform in the station during quiet periods, so did Tom and Harry. They did coach work and pulled hearses at extra-elegant funerals. A tale handed down through the generations about these horses goes something like this.

While in a solemn procession, pulling a hearse going up Main Street, the fire alarm sounded. Tom and Harry immediately picked up their ears, snorted and started to run. They left the procession with the mourners startled at their antics. The fire horses made a sharp turn with two wheels in the air, and headed for the fire house. They arrived ready for duty with the hearse and its contents, just about falling out through the back door.

Later "Tom and Harry" were replaced by "Buddie and Buster," who remained in part-time fire service until their stable burned down, and these fine animals were lost in the fire.

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1, was one of the first volunteer units in the State of New Jersey to obtain motorized fire apparatus. In December, 1914, the Perth Amboy Garage was contracted to build a special Willys-Overland utility truck.

It had no pump but carried hose, chemicals and 12 firemen. The truck was commissioned on April 12, 1915, and remained in service for five years. It was called a "bucking bronco" due to its unusual performance. When four or more firemen stood on the

. . . Continued on page 35

[illegible]

79 ALBERT STREET

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

573 AMBOY AVENUE

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

575 AMBOY AVENUE

WOODBRIIDGE, N. J.

530 AMBOY AVENUE

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

Our Visiting Firemen

This list contains the names of those Fire Companies that have returned their entry forms, stating that they will be participating in our 75th Anniversary Parade.

HOST FIRE COMPANY'S BAND

Woodbridge Elks Band, Lodge No. 2116

Township Division

1. Protection Fire Co., Keasbey
2. Iselin Fire Company (Dist. #9)
John F. Kennedy High School Band
3. Port Reading Fire Company
4. Avenel Fire Company
5. Fords Fire Dept.
6. Colonia Fire Dept.
Colonia High School Band
7. Hopelawn Engine Company
Hopelawn Youth Organization
8. Iselin Chemical H&L Fire Co. (Dist. #11)

First Division

1. South Amboy Fire Dept.
Imperial Band
2. Elizabeth Fire Dept.
3. Raritan Engine Co. #1, Edison
4. Niagara Hose Co. #6, Burlington
5. Hamilton Fire Company
6. Carteret Fire Dept.
7. Toms River #2
8. East Brunswick, Independent
9. New Market Vol. Fire Co. #1
10. Old Village Fire Co.

Second Division

1. Perth Amboy Fire Dept.
Saint Columille United Gaelic Piper Band
2. Brevent Park/Leonardo
3. City of Vineland
4. Summit Engine Co.
5. Hillsborough Vol. Fire Co. #2
6. West Trenton
7. Rensselaer, N.Y. Fire Dept.

Continued on Page 37

[illegible]

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738 RAHWAY AVENUE

[illegible]



— Main Street — August 17, 1971 —



— Main Street — August 17, 1971 —



— Main Street — August 17, 1971 —

|||||
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112 MAIN STREET

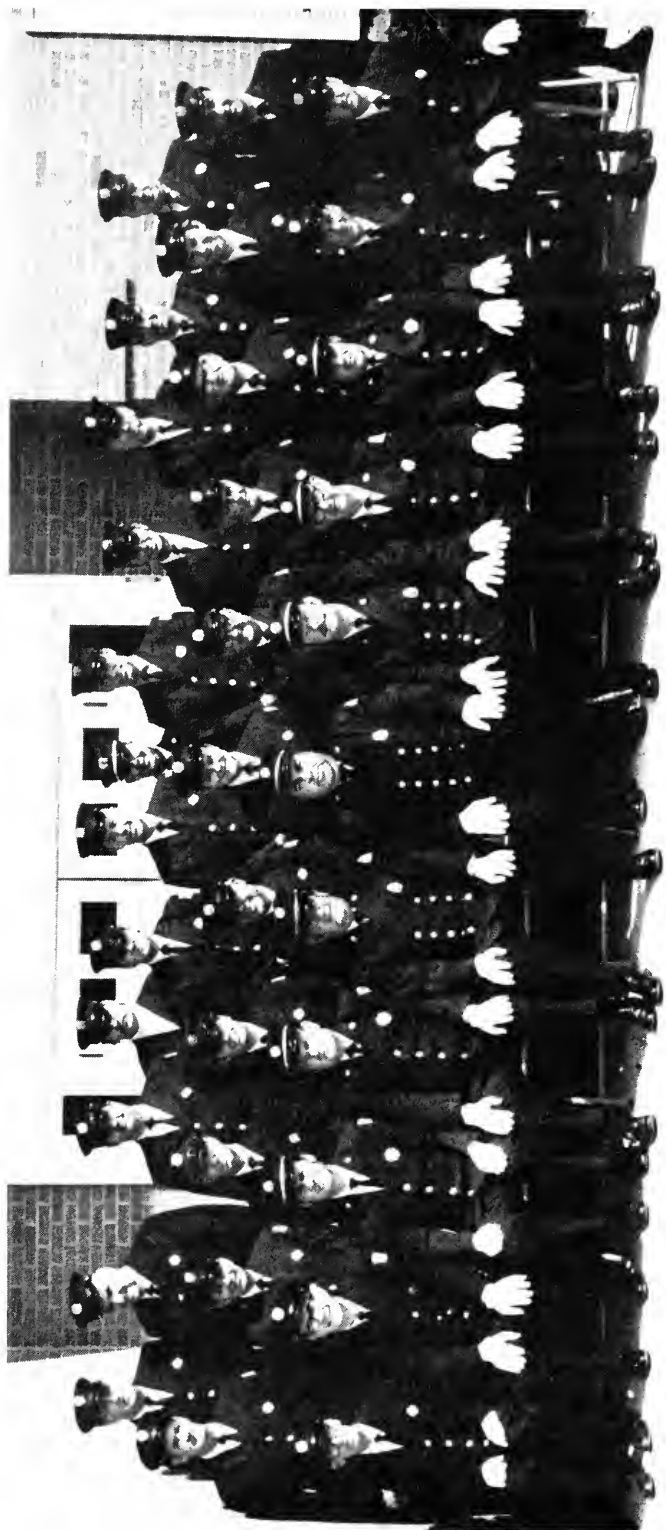
WOODBIDGE, N. J.

Continued from page 5 . . .

Woodbridge is an ever growing progressive community, with constant changes that truly make it the "All American City" it was named a few years past.

Jeremiah Dally, an early historian of Woodbridge, truly must have been a man of vision, when he wrote in 1873: "If we could play Rip Van Winkle, and open our eyes on the village two hundred years from now, doubtless, we should see more wonderful changes."

The group suggests that, if you do not wish to donate items to the library, you lend them to the library for a few days, so they may have the opportunity to reproduce them, and thus the Historical Society will, by gathering up all the many different items, be able to piece together the whole story in order to leave a legacy for generations of new citizens of Woodbridge, in the many years to come.



FRONT ROW: Frank Plavin, William Demler, Robert Bader, James Burke, 1st Asst. Chief John Toth, Chief Dan Natale, 2nd Asst. Chief Tom Bader, James Zehrer, Daniel Vitello, Joseph Mitko, Edward Brown. SECOND ROW: Robert Fitzpatrick, James Karol, Richard Gould, Thomas Hines, John Orlick, Andrew Anderson, Anton Andersch, Joseph Allgaier, John Hacker, Hugh Quigley, Jr., John Tomko. BACK ROW: Thomas Fitzpatrick, George Van Tassel, Robert Distlecamp, Michael Sefchek, Floyd Murray, Todd Howell, Robert Golden, Louis Bader, John Nielson, Frank Meyer, Leonard Minkler, George Wilcox.

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

— Executive Officers —

Andrew Anderson	President
John Orlick	Vice President
Charles Fitzpatrick	Secretary
Edward Crowe	Treasurer
Michael Lebeda	Financial Secretary
Richard Foersch	Chaplain

— Line Officers —

Dan Natale	Chief
John Toth	First Asst. Chief
Thomas Bader	Second Asst. Chief
James Zehr	Captain, Engine Div.
James Burke	Captain, Truck Div.
Daniel Vitello	Lieut., Engine Div.
Robert Bader	Lieut., Truck Div.

— Engine Division —

Andrew Anderson	Richard Gould	John Orlick
Edward Cheslak	John Hacker	Hugh Quigley
Edward Crowe	Thomas Hines	Richard Schwarz
Thomas Crowe	John Kellner	Michael Sefchek
Charles Fitzpatrick	Joseph Leahy	John Tomko
Robert Fitzpatrick	Leonard Minkler	John Toth
Richard Foersch	Joseph Mitko	William Van Tassel
William Gerity	Harold Mortensen	Daniel Vitello
		James Zehr

— Truck Division —

Joseph Allgaier	Walter Ferrie	Dante Natale
Anton Andersch	Thomas Fitzpatrick	John Nielson
Louis Bader	Robert Golden	James Patten
Robert Bader	Todd Howell	Frank Plavin
Thomas Bader	James Karol	Lawrence Romond
Edward Brown	Thomas Kath	Donald Roxlau
James Burke	Joseph Karnas	Norman Shockley
John Carlin	John Kenny	Peter Smith
Stanley Cheslak	George Kociolek	Martin Snyder
Harold Crowe	Michael Lebeda	Fred Tier
William Demler	Gordon Macaulay	George Van Tassel
Robert Distlecamp	Francis Meyer	Edward Van Tassel
Peter Fenick	Floyd Murray	George Wilcox
		Robert Woodward

[illegible][illegible]



— Train Derailment — February 6, 1951 —



— Train Derailment — February 6, 1951 —



— Fulton Street Explosion — November 12, 1935 —

Franklin M. Savoth, Jr.

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Beer - Wines - Liquors

— S A N D W I C H E S —

Cor.: William & New Streets

Woodbridge, N. J.

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

Continued from page 23 . . .

rear platform, the front end was lifted into the air, thereby nullifying the steering qualities. The positive contribution from shifting weight toward the rear was for dodging the muddy potholes by the forward wheels.

It had solid rubber tires and the wheels were chain-driven. At night, the forward end was illuminated by two carbide lamps, and the rear was marked by two red kerosene lanterns.

The transition from horse-drawn to motorized power was vehemently resisted by the "old-timers." Their finest arguments pointed to the human-like qualities of animals plus horse sense. Grudgingly, they admitted that the "motor trucks" were putting "old Dobbin" into pasture.

Of course, they did have a few last laughs as they pulled out of the firehouse with their horses, while the "new-fangled machine" wouldn't start, despite constant cranking by hand. No doubt their greatest glee came when a team of horses had to be hooked up to the stalled machine to pull it to the scene of the fire.

In 1922, a modern 750-gallon per minute American LaFrance pumper was purchased, which was delivered to Woodbridge in a railroad box car. A short time after this combination chemical pumper was in service, the Willys-Overland apparatus was sold to a fire company in the township. As a note of interest, the original LaFrance was overhauled in 1935, and the chemical tank was replaced with a 60-gallon booster tank.

In 1924, a White hook and ladder truck with a complete double set of equipment was bought. In 1925, a new American LaFrance combination booster-pumper was purchased, and about ten years later a Ford emergency truck was hand-built by the volunteer firemen from a used chassis. This was loaded with every possible modern device of the day, and was used for many types of emergency calls besides fires.

In 1941, two new apparatus were delivered by the American LaFrance Company. One was a 750 gpm pumper, and the other a seventy-five foot aerial ladder which did double-duty at the train disaster in 1951. Then in 1953, Engine #5 (750 gpm-TASC), was purchased to augment the growing need for additional fire equipment.

. . . Continued on page 41

[illegible]

392 AMBOY AVENUE

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

M O L N A R

Our Visiting Firemen . . .

Continued from page 25

Third Division

- Harmony Senior Drum & Bugle Corps
- 1. Roebling Fire Co. #3
- 2. Keyport Fire Dept.
- 3. Independent Fire Co. #1, Maple Shade, N.J.
- 4. Ocean Beach #3
- 5. Beach Haven Vol. #1

Fourth Division

- 1. Old Bridge Vol. Fire Co.
Emerald Lancers Drum & Bugle Corps
- 2. Metuchen Fire Dept.
- 3. Union Gardens & Union Hose F. D.
- 4. Freehold Fire Dept.
- 5. Delran Fire Co. #2
- 6. Slackwood Fire Co.
- 7. Reliable, South River
- 8. Brookview Vol. F. D.

Fifth Division

- Saints Drum & Bugle Corps
- 1. Toms River Fire Co.
- 2. Endeavor Emergency Squad
- 3. Finderne Engine Co. #1
- 4. Enterprise Vol. F. D.
- 5. Garwood F. D./Liberty Hose Co.

Sixth Division

- 1. Delanco Fire Company
Riverside String Band
- 2. Madison Park Fire Dept.
- 3. De Cou Hose Company
- 4. Fairfield Vol. Fire Dept.
- 5. Lincoln Fire Company, Totowa Boro
- 6. West Long Branch Fire Dept.
- 7. Hillsborough Vol. Fire Company
- 8. Erskine Lakes Fire Co.
- 9. Dunellen Fire Dept.

Continued on Page 45

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Air Conditioned

MIKE, MICKEY, & JOE ALMASI

78 MAIN STREET

WOODBIDGE, N. J.

— Officers 1907 —

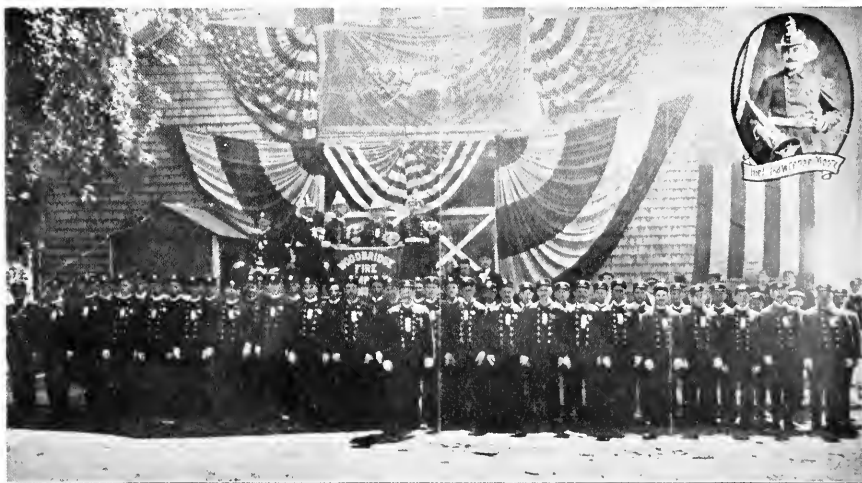


— Demolition — October 4, 1967 —

— March 26, 1955 —



— Dedication — May 18, 1969 —



Woodbridge Fire Company — 1911

Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1

Continued from page 35 . . .

Eight years later, as the demand for new homes swept the nation, Woodbridge was caught up in the building boom, and with the need for improved fire protection, Engine #6 (1000 gpm-TASC) was purchased in 1961, and Engine #7 (1000 gpm-TASC) was obtained in 1967.

After almost thirty years of service, the 1941 aerial ladder was replaced in 1971 with a 100-foot American LaFrance, rear-mounted aerial ladder.

Although the original firehouse had been expanded in 1937, it became outmoded, and so it was on the morning of October 4, 1967, the wrecking ball began its job of knocking down the old to make way for the new Colonial style structure.

Twenty months later, on May 18th, 1969, the present building was dedicated. The new firehouse contains five bays, a meeting and recreation room, a dormitory, fire prevention office, and a watch desk room.

It must be noted that the fire company is responsible for the protection of Woodbridge proper and Sewaren section of the Township, with its petroleum tank farms, dock facilities, chemical storage and distribution points, commercial and residential areas, and high-rise buildings, and also the large sprawling Woodbridge Center complex, which comprise Fire District Number 1, of Woodbridge Township.

Over the years, Woodbridge Fire Company, which is made up of two divisions, the Engine and the Truck, with an overall complement of 65 volunteers, has responded to a variety of calls: from rescuing an animal in a tree, to a small child in a burning building; from an oil fire to a train disaster; and from a house fire to an industrial or commercial fire.

Large or small as the emergency may be, the men of Woodbridge Fire Company No. 1, today, as in the past, respond to the "call" for the protection of life and property.



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Continued from page 37

10. Fieldsboro Fire Company
11. Browns Mills Fire Co.
12. Union Fire Co. #1
13. Island Heights Vol. Fire Co.

Seventh Division

1. Long Branch Fire Dept.
 Police Band
2. Edison Vol. Fire Co. #1
3. Neptune Hose Co. #5
4. Howell Township Fire Dept.

Eighth Division

1. Hope Fire Co. #1
2. Burlington Township Fire Co.
3. North Centerville Fire Co.
4. Hope Steam Fire Company

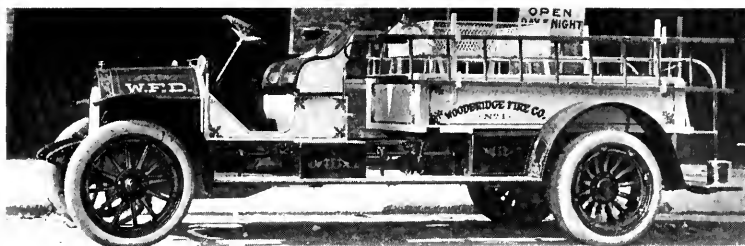
Ninth Division

1. Springfield Vol. Fire Dept.
2. Piscataway Fire Dept.
3. H. K. Vol. Fire Co., Edison

Tenth Division

1. Port Monmouth Fire Co. #1
2. Kittatinny Hose & Ladder
3. Fair Haven Fire Co. #1
4. Hillside Civil Defense
5. Neshanic Vol. Fire Co.
6. Ocean Fire Engine Co. #1, Long Branch
7. Ocean Fire Company, Sea Bright
8. Hamilton Fire Company, Trenton
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11. Watchung Fire Dept.
12. Independent Fire Co. #1, Red Bank
13. Community Fire Co. #1, Wayne

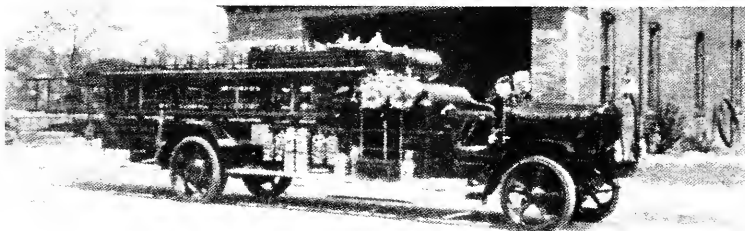
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1914



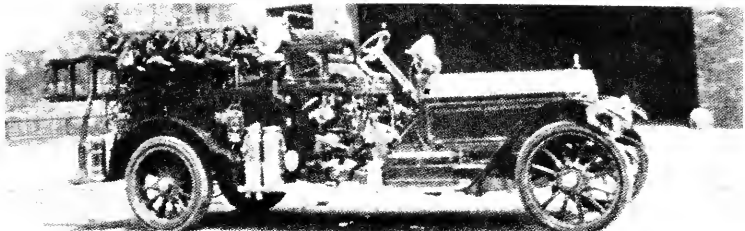
1941



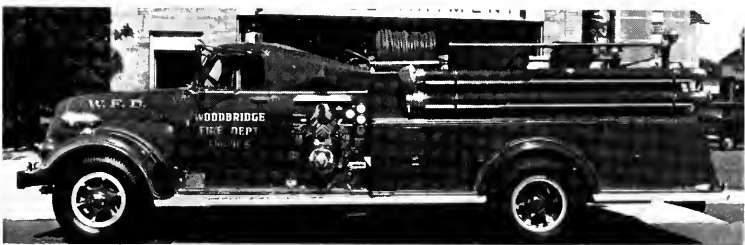
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1941



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1953

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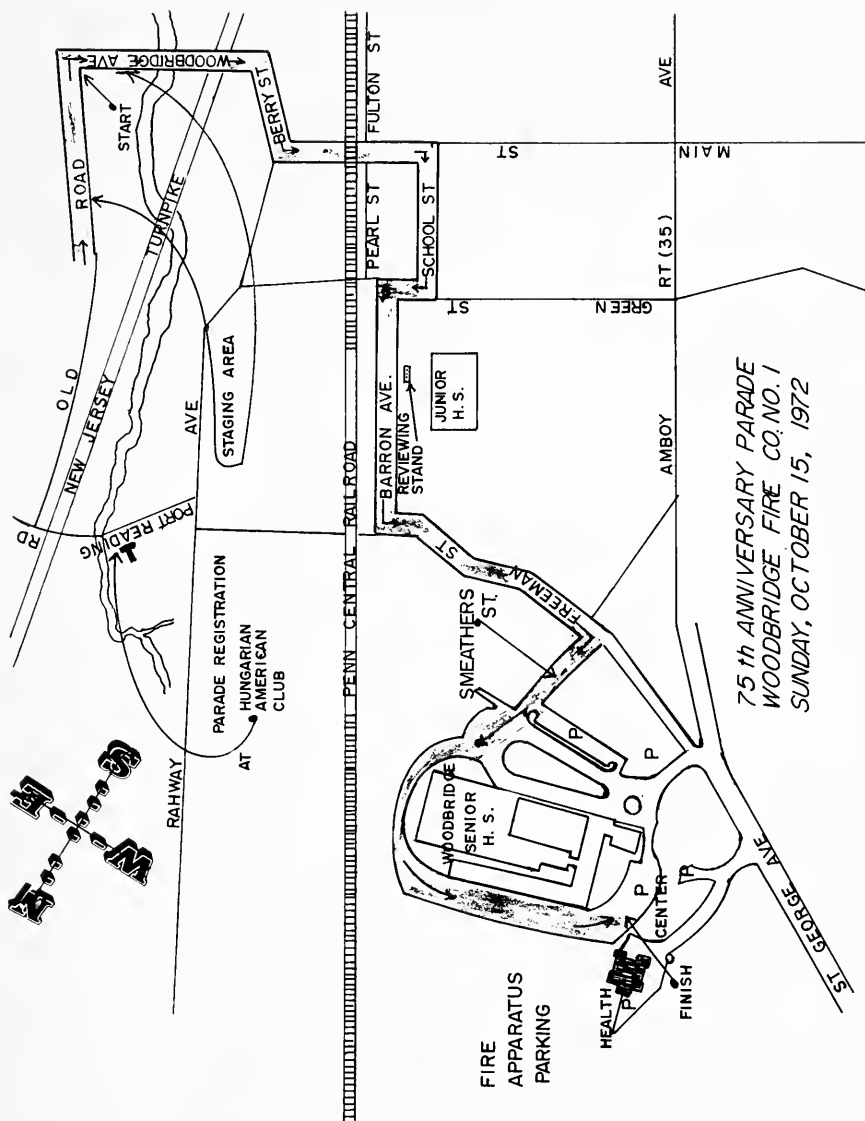
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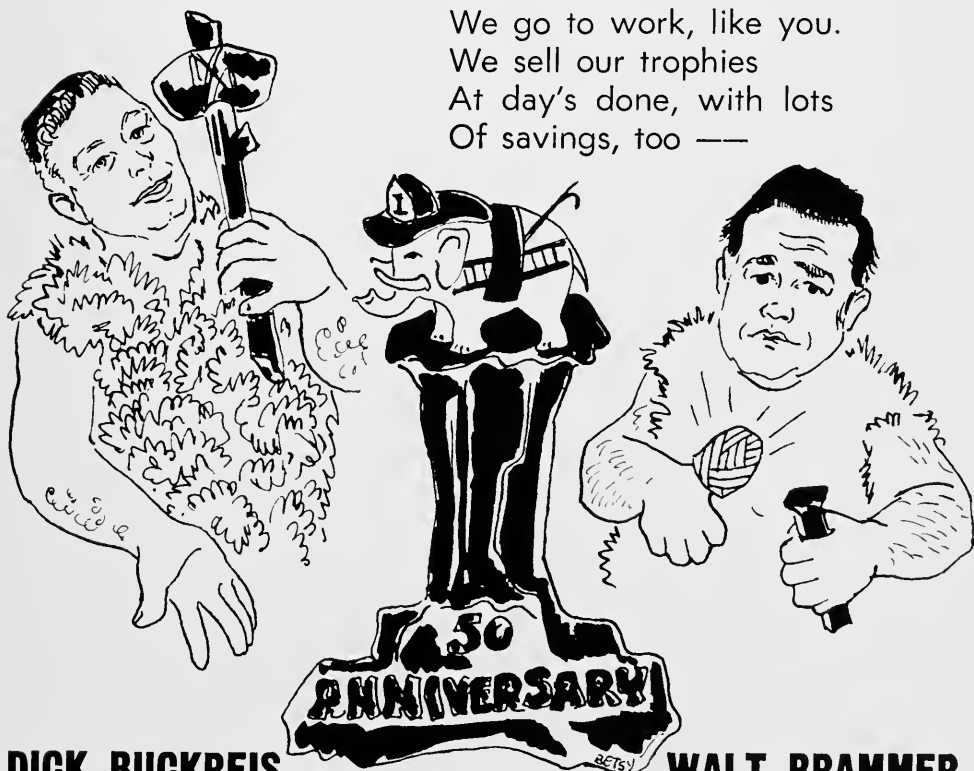
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